

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Salaries of Military Personnel

1. Soldiers in the Latvian Army receive 60 rubles a month. In the navy, the personnel are better dressed, and also receive a better base pay -- 100 to 120 rubles a month. A sailor who has specialized, e.g., in electricity, and has earned the title of krasnyy spetsialist receives 400 rubles a month. A chief petty officer receives 1400 rubles a month, approximately the same as that of a junior lieutenant. Chief petty officers usually are sailors who have enlisted for an extended duty period after having served their compulsory enlistment.

Salaries of Militiamen

2. An ordinary militiaman who does best duty receives 500 rubles a month, and a lieutenant in the militia receives 700 rubles a month.

Wages of Industrial Workers

3. In the Tosmare Shipyard the best-paid workers are those with a specialty, who are in Category VII and receive 1200 - 1300 rubles a month. There are only about 50 or 60 such workers in the yard. Workers in categories IV to VI receive between 600 and 800 rubles a month, and the monthly pay of unskilled workers is about 400 rubles; factory guards, 350 - 400 rubles; and a storekeeper, 450 rubles. Workers in the locomotive and car repair shops generally receive less than workers at Tosmare Shipyard. Railroad employees are heard complaining about their low pay;-- a senior car-axle tester receives 550 - 600 rubles a month, and a switchman, only 300 rubles.

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4. The best-paid workers in the Sarkanais Metallurgy Steel Mill are the bricklayers who repair the Martin furnaces. These men are in Category VII and earn as much as 2000 rubles a month, including overtime; other workers in the Martin furnace section are in categories VI and VII and earn up to 1000 rubles a month. High wages also are paid in the wire-drawing mill of Sarkanais Metallurgy; there is no shortage of workers in this mill, therefore, although the work is hazardous, with accidents occurring almost daily. The accidents are attributed to the fact that the plant is old. Workers in Category VII in this mill earn between 1200 and 1300 rubles a month. Category VII workers in the electrical section of the factory earn only 800 - 900 rubles a month, so that this section is not too popular with the workers. A foreman averages between 800 and 900 rubles a month, excluding bonuses, which vary greatly and are based on savings in material and power. The novatorstvo, or suggestion program, is an occasional source of extra income. A suggestion does not have to be a new invention; a worker can suggest the application of an idea gleaned from a book or trade paper.

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Even a proposal certified by the management to be a new idea is not always guaranteed to merit a bonus, particularly in the case of foremen and engineers, who are expected to make such proposals as part of their position.

Salespeople and Other Groups

5. A salesman receives 300 to 400 rubles a month; the manager of a business, 500 rubles. Quarterly bonuses for overfulfillment of the plan are provided for, but seldom is the plan overfulfilled. These classes of workers are forced to resort to devious methods of augmenting their income. One method is to reserve scarce goods for customers able and willing to pay a premium, or otherwise to dispose of scarce goods to their personal advantage. The bookkeepers are the best paid of office workers, receiving a minimum of 450 rubles a month. A bookkeeper with a college education receives 150 rubles more, and a chief bookkeeper receives more than the manager of a business. Grade school teachers receive 600 rubles a month. Doctors usually are not paid more than 500 rubles a month, although they can have private practice; high taxes are a prohibitive factor in the latter case. Housekeepers receive 550 rubles a month and janitors are paid 200 rubles; a private tailor may make 1200 - 1300 rubles a month.

Fishermen

6. Members of the Bolshevik Fishing Kolkhoz receive 350 rubles for a ton of fish, and this amount is divided among the members of the crew, the captain receiving 2 shares, the machinist, 1.9 shares, the assistant captain, 1.8 shares, etc. After fulfilling the quarterly plan, the members of the kolkhoz receive double pay for each ton of fish over the plan. The average pay of a fisherman is estimated to be about 900 rubles a month, and a captain's, 1200 - 1300 rubles. The president of the kolkhoz receives a fixed salary of 900 rubles a month, but he also receives a percentage of the proceeds from overfulfillment of the plan. The chief bookkeeper of the kolkhoz receives 1200 rubles a month.

Party Members

7. Party membership does not mean an increase in salary, as only Party officials receive compensation. For example, grade school teachers who manage the Pioneers in their schools receive 50 rubles a month from the Party. Informants can cite only the case of an acquaintance who went to Asite as partorg, who received 800 rubles a month.

Kolkhozniki

8. Even farmers in well-to-do kolkhozy receive only some produce and not more than two or three rubles a day. A farmer forfeits three days' wages if he has to borrow a kolkhoz horse to travel to town. Tractor drivers have been heard complaining about their low pay, but no figures are known.

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